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Why is Feminism Being Ruined?

As a child I grew up with three major women in my life; my mother, my Grandma Laura and my Grandma Bonnie, all fantastic women who have molded me to be the feminist I am. From these women I learned the truth behind feminism, that it is not necessarily about ‘girl power’ but how men and women are equal. Since my parents had split, it was always my mom and I and she made sure to take care of my every need, working hard for all my wants and necessities. When I would go to see my dad-who lived with my Grandma Bonnie- his mother took care of me making all my meals, giving me my baths and putting me to sleep at night. When my mother was busy at work I went to her moms, my Grandma Laura who did the same. The difference between these three women is simple; my mom did it all by herself, my Grandma Bonnie did it while taking care of my alcoholic grandpa, and my Grandma Laura had the help of her husband my Pampa. These women influenced me greatly, and at a young age I quickly learned what it means to be a feminist; regardless of a women’s situation she can do anything on her own, she can take care of her husband and children alone or she can be lucky enough to accept the help of a man.

Dictionary.com says a feminist is someone advocating social, political, legal and economic rights for women equal to those of men. Although I believe this to be true, to be a feminist means much more to me than this. Being a feminist is a lifestyle, and I am blessed for the women in America’s history who have fought for the rights I am given today such as voting and no discrimination against sex in hiring. For instance, Gloria Steinem who is a co-founder in Ms. Magazine has advocated for women’s rights almost for years and is still working at it. She worked on legalizing abortion and is still working on same sex marriage. A woman that worked along her side was Louise Noun who founded organizations such as the Young Women’s Resource Centers and the Chrysalis Foundation. The Chrysalis Foundation helped women greatly and gave help to people in domestic abuse along with giving funding to day cares and financial aid to women in community colleges. The foundation sponsored “Women’s Voices” which was a conference where a bunch of girls got together and discussed women’s rights socially and politically. For about 40 years women fought for women’s suffrage and the right to vote in the 19th amendment, it did not even pass until 1920. It took women 40 entire years to earn the right to vote. Black men who were slaves had the right to vote before women. That is how hard women had to work in order to be recognized as even somewhat equal in society.

If it were only 50 years ago girls my age would most likely be leaving school or graduating only to get married and have children shortly after. Then they would have a long life of taking care of children, cleaning the house and catering to their families every personal need and desires. That was a women’s job. It wasn’t even until World War I that women went into the work force, and it was only because a majority of the men were off at war. All these suffering and hard working women made it possible for girls just to be treated equally. That is magnificent. Which is what raises this big question about feminism in my generation. Why is my generation of women completely destroying everything that women in America’s history have worked so hard for? Why are girls letting men use them? Why are girls throwing away their pride and self dignity?